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QUEER LEGAL TANGLES



the practice of law that it undoubtedly seems that a study of court records would be a most profitless occupation But for obtaining tags of romance, and hints of plot and counter-plot, many of them such as most fiction writers would hesitate to weave into even the sented. most sensational of tales, a term of such inves-

tigation for the curious is recommended. For odd side lights on human nature for startling coincidences, for situations which the most ingenious mind would find it difficult to invent, the dry records of court cannot be surpassed. What sample of fiction ever excelled in plot and bald improbability this bit of "circumstantial evidence," which came near to fixing crime upon an innocent man in a Hartford court:

A Case of Two Rolls

A man dropped a roll containing just one hundred dollars in a butcher shop, and, discovering his loss shortly after leaving the place, returned, only to discover that somebody had been before him. The butcher remembered that directly after the unfortunate man had gone out another customer, but a stranger, had entered, bought meat, and when he came to pay for his purchase he suddenly began searching his pockets with a great show of having lost something. Then with much satisfaction expressed in his face he stooped and picked up a roll of bills from the floor and paid the butcher out of it, going out at once with his purchase thereafter. thereafter

He was found and arrested, and the accuser appeared against him in court.

But fortunately for the accused he proved by indisputable witnesses that just before his arrest he had started for the butcher's to locate the owner of the money. His story was that, on the day that he found the hundred-dollar roll, he had collected just that sum from a credroll, he had collected just that sum from a creditor, and had thrust it, as he supposed, into his vest pocket. When he went into the market he naturally felt for the money, and, missing it, looked down and saw the other man's roll lying in the sawdust. He had been using that money, believing it to be his own, until the morning of his arrest, when, chancing to put on the same coat he had worn before, and feeling in his pocket for a match, he had found his own in his pocket for a match, he had found his own roll of bills.

A Fisher of Clothes

To swing to the other extreme, here is where circumstantial evidence failed to convict in a case where the guilty was almost

David Fellman lived in a tenement on the York city, and Jacob Cohen lived on the third floor of the adjoining building. There was an air shaft about eight feet wide between the two buildings. Cohen awoke one morning to see the end of a fish pole protruding in his bed-room from the air shaft, and a moment later the hook on the end of the line attached to the pole caught Cohen's shirt from the chair back and whipped it out of the window.

Cohen leaped out of bed, and he alleged that he saw the shirt disappear within the window of Fellman's apartment. He then made an inventory of his possessions, and found that his coat, waistcoat, and trousers had likewise

Nobody could furnish such evidence, and Fellman was discharged.

A Fine Point at Law

A N old-time novel, the plot of which turned upon the signing of a will, probably never equaled this case which follows, nor is it likely that any novelist would have dreamed such a seemingly unimportant matter would have so disastrous an effect upon the

would have so disastrous an effect upon the ultimate disposal of property.

Hiram C. Olds, of Kingston New York, executed a will in 1904, by the terms of which he gave Mrs. Margaret Gerhardt five hundred dollars, and the rest of his property to his wife. Two years later he became seriously ill of an abscess on the lungs. An immediate operation was decided upon as the only means of saving his life.

THE average layman knows so little about revoking the bequest to Mrs. Gerhardt. Olds signed the instrument, as did the physician who drew it. The other physician, being busy,

did not see Olds sign the paper.

The patient died before he could be operated upon. When his will and codicil were presented for probate, the names of both physicians appeared on the codicil as witnesses but it was admitted that one of them had signed after both had discovered that their patient was dead. Probate of the codicil was denied.

Won By a Nose

SPEAKING of wills naturally brings to the contemplation of those cases wherein the heirship of estates has been in doubt. And few of these were finally settled upon stranger evi-dence than that which closed the famous Kipp

James Brown Kipp, when a boy, ran away from his home in Saugerties, New York. He was never heard of by his family until his two children appeared to claim a share of the Kipp estate, amounting to about thirty thousand dollars. Kipp had been murdered, and left no line of writing saving some words in the Kanaka language written on the fly leaf of an old Bible which he owned, which words nobody seemed able to translate.

The two children of the lost man finally convinced the higher courts that they were heirs of the said James Brown Kipp, by the shape of their noses. The father had had an enormous and queerly shaped nose. Photographs of the dead man proved conclusively the heirs' similarity of feature. On this evidence judgment was rendered in their favor.

The nose has figured prominently, too, in a couple of queer cases within the last few months. In Berlin the German authorities arrested a man for sneezing in the public street, on the ground of creating a disturbance, and prosecuted the case despite the fact that the man brought medical testimony to prove that a polypus in his nose prevented him from putting on the pianissimo stop when he sneezed.

And in Cincinnati a lodging-house keeper brought a roomer into court for snoring. The

claim was made that his nasal serenades dis turbed the other lodgers so that they threat ened to leave, and the justice issued a writ against the unfortunate snorer.

THE LATE TENANT

Synopsis of Preceding Chapters

DAVID HARCOURT is a lusty, clean-souled young man from Wyoming, who has come to London to escape the wiles of a designing rancher's daughter and make his living at writing stories.

He leases a flat at No. 7, Eddystone Mansions, which is supposed to be haunted by the ghost of Gwendoline Barnes, an actress who previously occupied the apartment, who committed suicide there. Her rent had been paid by Johann Strauss, supposed to be a false name.

The first night he spends in his new home he is startled by a strange odor of violets and an indefinable presence which eludes his most careful search.

He visits Kensal Green cemetery the next day, where Gwendoline was buried, and encounters

of Fellman's apartment. He then made an inventory of his possessions, and found that his coat, waistcoat, and trousers had likewise disappeared, presumably in the same manner and to the same place.

Cohen notified the police, and the fish pole was found on the roof. The detective experimented, and swore that the pole could not have reached Cohen's room from any place excepting Fellman's window. So they arrested Fellman.

"The only question here," said Magistrate Crane, "is whether anyone can swear that Fellman was at the other end of the pole when the clothes were hooked."

Nobody could furnish such evidence, and that he had not given it to Strauss.

"Nobody could furnish such evidence, and that he had found encounters by the van Hupfeldt, described as the typical handsome villain, who apparently loves her. David, in love with Violet, learning of the suspicion that Gwendoline had not been married to Strauss, and that she had left documents hidden in the apartment, interviews Ermyn L'Estrange, the previous occupant. She tells him that Strauss had paid for the apartment for her on condition that he hunt for the hidden papers. She found a marriage certificate, containing the name "Gwendoline was buried, and encounters the center, who more and encounters by violet Mordaunt, the Barnes girl's sister, who worth and believes the precion, and believes the book as the violet is joined by van Hupfeldt, described as the typical handsome villain, who apparently loves her.

David, in love with Violet, learning of the suspicion had believes that the route had not been married to Strauss, and that she had left documents hidden in the apartment, interviews Ermyn L'Estrange, the previous occupant. She tells him that Strauss had paid for the apartment for her on condition a marriage certificate, containing the name "Gwendoline villain" and "von" or "van" something; live and encounters the clothes were hooked."

Nobody could furnish such evidence, and

David writes to Violet that proof of Gwendoline's marriage will probably be forthcoming. Van Hupfeldt asks Violet to marry him, and claims the

Hupfeldt asks Violet to marry him, and claims the authorship of David's note, which was unsigned.

David goes to a London suburb to interview Sarah Gissing; and on the way back at two in the morning sees Violet running down the street and secretly enter her house.

Jenny, Miss L'Estrange's maid, is sought by both van Hupfeldt (or Strauss) and David, as she has the missing marriage license. David bids her wait in his apartment till he gets Violet's authorization to spend one hundred pounds for the license; but when he returns Jenny is gone. She has been followed by van Hupfeldt's valet, and van Hupfeldt secures the papers.

secures the papers.

David hears somebody in his flat that night, and fires at him, but without apparent result.

David finds the diary of Gwendoline in the back

of a picture.

Van Hupfeldt, who was the visitor at David's apartment and had been shot in the foot, persuades the Mordaunts to leave London at once, and by grossly misrepresenting David's character partially induces Violet to have nothing more to do with him. He substitutes a forged note for one she sent

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good practical telescope for land observations, etc.

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